

Senior Services Commission

February 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Luella Landis at 10:33 a.m.

Roll Call: Deirdre Daly Ann Jordan Luella Landis
 Paula Luna

Absent: Shirley Banic Madeline Lowry Linda Polke
 Mertie Terry

Others: Amy Saada, Senior/Human Services Director

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Paula Luna; seconded by Deirdre Daly. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021, Regular Meeting made by Paula Luna; seconded by Deirdre Daly. All in favor. Motion carried.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada

Amy and her staff have been very busy. This week there are Valentine's Day events and virtual bingo. They will be delivering Valentine's Day treat bags. Seniors must sign up by Wednesday.

Barbara Grotheer is back and will run a current issues program titled "What is our National Purpose?".

The Cromwell Creative District will host a virtual coffee hour and is looking for artists.

Altrusa will again sponsor a poetry contest for seniors (age 55 and older). The poetry submission is due by March 1, 2021 and the virtual event will probably be held in June.

The Easter Food Basket program (for income-eligible residents) is still looking for donations. Checks should include "Easter Program" in the memo line. March 5, 2021 is the deadline to apply and baskets will be distributed about a week prior to Easter.

Other virtual events include:

February 16, 2021 – Exercise during the winter months presented by Fox Rehab.

February 17, 2021 – Wheel of Fortune with Nick.

February 23, 2021 – Escape Room (event will be played in collaboration with the South Windsor Senior Center).

Paula Luna inquired about the COVID vaccine for seniors age 65 and older. Amy said that she just received word that the Governor is expected to announce this morning that seniors age 65 and older can begin to register on Thursday. The Cromwell Town Hall is a vaccination site, however it is not listed in VAMS.

Director of Public Health Update – None

Council Liaison Update – None

Old Business

- A. FY22 Budget Discussion – Amy submitted the budget. Expenses are down because there have been no in-person events.
- B. State Unit on Aging Funding Opportunity Awarded – They received a \$2,500 grant for COVID related reimbursements. Amy has purchased a "touchless" faucet, "touchless" water bottle filler and "touchless" hand sanitizer dispenser.

Paula Luna inquired about the target date to reopen and Amy said that AARP taxes will resume soon (discussed in New Business).

New Business

- A. AARP Tax Program Resuming – There will be 4 tax preparers on Mondays. Senior will have a 15-minute appointment to drop off documents with a tax preparer; and then return later in the day to sign their tax return. The March 1, 2021 appointments are already booked and half the appointments on March 8, 2021 are booked.

Citizens Comments

Per Ann Jordan's inquiry, Amy advised the group that the purpose of the commission is to be an advisory group to the Senior Center (a voice for the seniors in town and to support Amy during budget times).

The gym will be used for COVID vaccinations and Amy hopes that they will be available 3-4 times per week.

Senior Centers in Connecticut are not yet open. The senior buses are operational with one or two riders on the bus at a given time. A new driver will be starting on February 22, 2021 and Amy received an application for another driver.

When the Senior Center reopens, Amy expects that they will need to keep track of visitors for contact tracing.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2021.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paula Luna; seconded by Deirdre Daly. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stockman

Recording Clerk